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NEWSLETTER

101-1239

21 December 1989

Washington

DC

CHRISTMAS will have a special meaning in many parts of the world this year, especially in countries where governments have traditionally discouraged such celebrations and old St. Nick must move around town in disguise. But perhaps not so this year.

Behind the monumental changes in the politics of eastern Europe there is the quiet but unmistakable resurgence of freedom of spirit. Particularly in Poland, East Germany, Hungary and Czechoslovakia the people are publicly displaying their desire to open the houses of worship and embrace their faith without fear of retribution. Not more than one month ago, the supreme leader of the Soviet Union made an unprecedented visit to the Roman Catholic Pope and if ever there were a visible symbol of the changing times, this was it.

So I feel this Christmas will be very different in eastern Europe. There will be a merging of the spirit of freedom with the message of Christmas: Peace on earth; good will toward men. We also celebrate the birth of freedom in a part of the world long hidden behind a wall and where the people have asked with a unanimous voice that they be free. We wish that everyone's heart be filled with compassion and the blessings of the season. We in the Congress are doing what we can to help make it so.

To each and every South Texan, we send you our hopes for a perfect holiday season with your family and friends.

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